



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

MARCH 2007



Prepared by

John Wines, Economic Analyst
Judy Anderson, Data Compiler

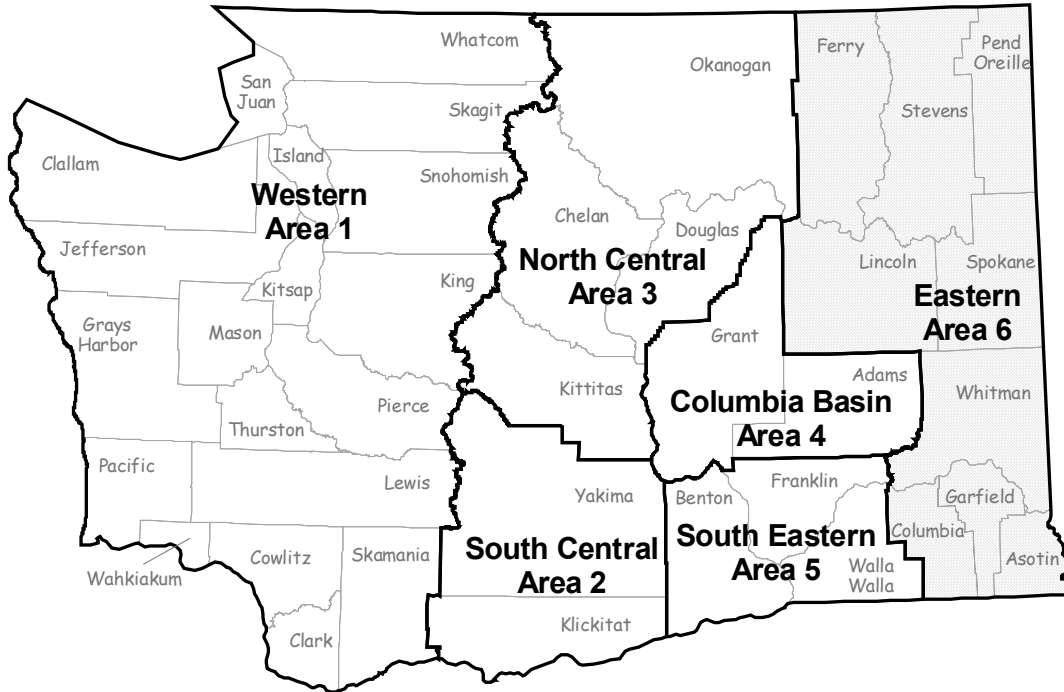
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch
Greg Weeks, Director
Washington State Employment Security Department

For More Information Contact: John Wines Telephone: (360) 438-4843
E-mail: jwines@esd.wa.gov or call the Labor Market
Information Center toll free: 1-800-215-1617

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

MARCH 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 fell by 10.8% from March 2006 to March 2007. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year losses were apple work (-3,026), bulb work (-865), hops work (-658), onion work (-521), other tree fruit work (-350), strawberry work (-75) and wheat/grain work (-18). Activities displaying gains were pear work (988), grapes work (751), other seasonal work (652), cherry work (433), nursery work (291), potato work (158), miscellaneous vegetables work (139), blueberry work (26) and asparagus work (17). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment inched forward by 0.2%, courtesy of an increase in nursery work (380). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment slipped by 0.4%, caused by a decline in apple work (-802). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment fell by 39.0%, due to a decrease in apple work (-1,975). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment contracted by 4.3%, thanks to a dip in apple work (-161). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 9.4%, forced down by a drop in onion work (-522). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment decreased by 16.1%, due to a contraction in nursery work (-83).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

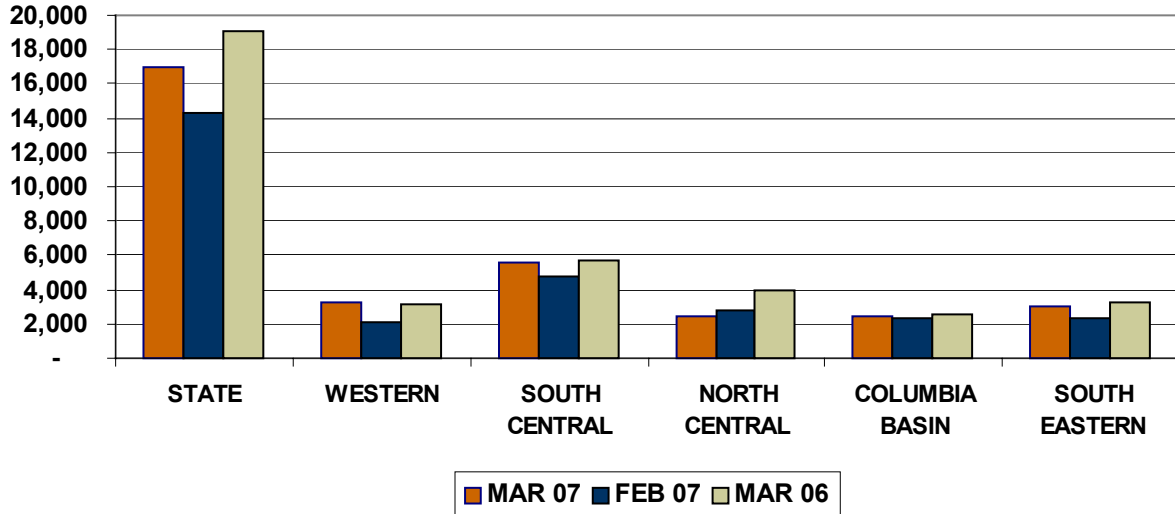
The Northwest bee supply is looking good for the spring. Despite the media attention given to the wholesale collapse of honeybee hives in certain parts of the county, it appears that Pacific Northwest growers who rely on honeybees to pollinate their crops don't have much to worry about this year. Unlike California almond growers who paid up to \$200 a hive for bees this winter, growers in this part of the country again will pay far less than that for their hives. In the Spokane area last year hives were renting for around \$35 for all crops.

The 2007 demand for timothy hay in Central Washington's Kittitas Valley continues to be strong. Shortages in all hay categories have helped to spur demand and boost pricing. In 2006, hay prices paid to farmers hit \$265 per ton for top horse-grade timothy after the first of the year. Dairy grades were in the \$120-per-ton range. Several factors influence the positive outlook for the coming year. They include a drought in Australia—driving production down, weather and increasing production costs in Canada as well as a shifting away from hay to focus on other crops, like corn and canola, to meet the increasing demand for ethanol production.

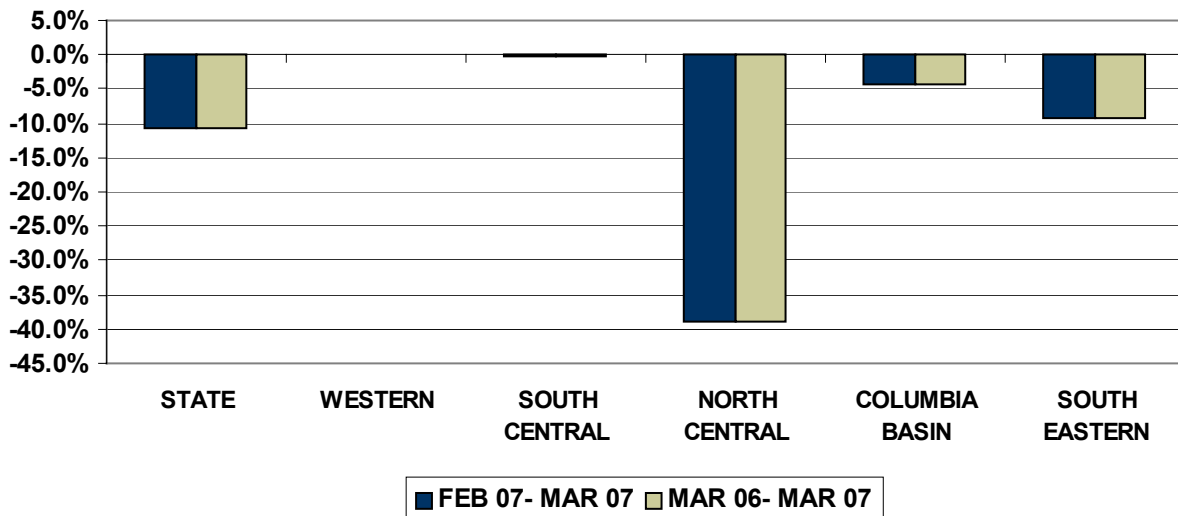
Some tree fruit growers in the last few years have begun using self-propelled robotic platforms for pruning. The vehicle has capacity for four workers and features a hydraulic lift for various heights of trees. It eliminates the need for the use of ladders in pruning. The vehicle steers itself down the rows with the help of sensors in a metal wand that softly strike each tree trunk on the machine's left side. It has a diesel motor, four-wheel-drive and four-wheel-steering. While the machine costs about \$55,000, some growers have reported a 10% cost saving in labor.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>MAR 07</u>	<u>FEB 07</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>FEB 07-</u> <u>MAR 07</u>	<u>MAR' 06-</u> <u>MAR' 07</u>	<u>FEB 07-</u> <u>MAR 07</u>	<u>MAR 06-</u> <u>MAR 07</u>
STATE	16,977	14,354	19,027	2,623	(2,050)	18.3%	-10.8%
WESTERN	3,202	2,126	3,197	1,076	5	50.6%	0.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	5,636	4,710	5,656	926	(20)	19.7%	-0.4%
NORTH CENTRAL	2,446	2,785	4,011	(339)	(1,565)	-12.2%	-39.0%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,451	2,297	2,562	154	(111)	6.7%	-4.3%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,977	2,268	3,285	709	(308)	31.3%	-9.4%
EASTERN	265	168	316	97	(51)	57.7%	-16.1%

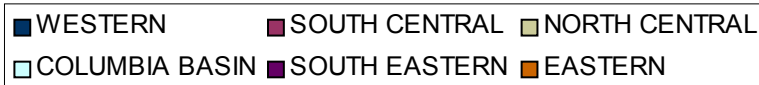
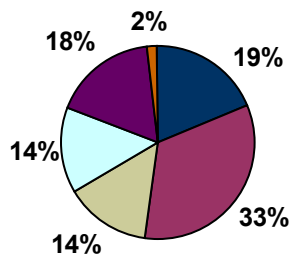
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



CHANGE IN SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



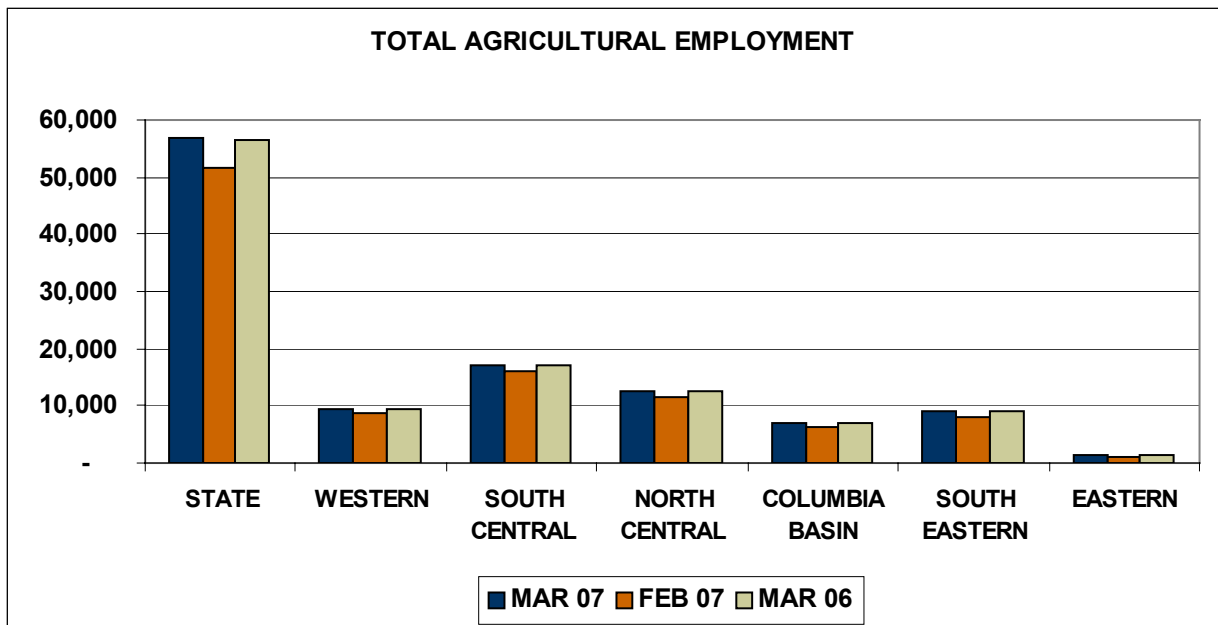
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT MARCH 2007



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment inched ahead by 0.4% from March 2006 to March 2007. Over-the-month total employment expanded by 9.7%. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment grew by 0.1%. South Central (Area 2) total employment increased by 0.5%. North Central (Area 3) total employment advanced by 0.4%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment also increased by 0.4%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment was flat with a 0.0% change. Eastern (Area 6) total employment grew by 2.2%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>MAR 07</u>	<u>FEB 07</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
				<u>FEB 07-</u> <u>MAR 07</u>	<u>MAR 06-</u> <u>MAR' 07</u>	<u>FEB 07-</u> <u>MAR 07</u>	<u>MAR 06-</u> <u>MAR' 07</u>	
STATE	56,755	51,755	56,556	5,000	199	9.7%	0.4%	
WESTERN	9,500	8,800	9,492	700	8	8.0%	0.1%	
SOUTH CENTRAL	17,125	15,911	17,044	1,214	81	7.6%	0.5%	
NORTH CENTRAL	12,640	11,400	12,591	1,240	49	10.9%	0.4%	
COLUMBIA BASIN	7,017	6,415	6,987	602	30	9.4%	0.4%	
SOUTH EASTERN	9,194	8,126	9,191	1,068	3	13.1%	0.0%	
EASTERN	1,279	1,103	1,252	176	27	16.0%	2.2%	

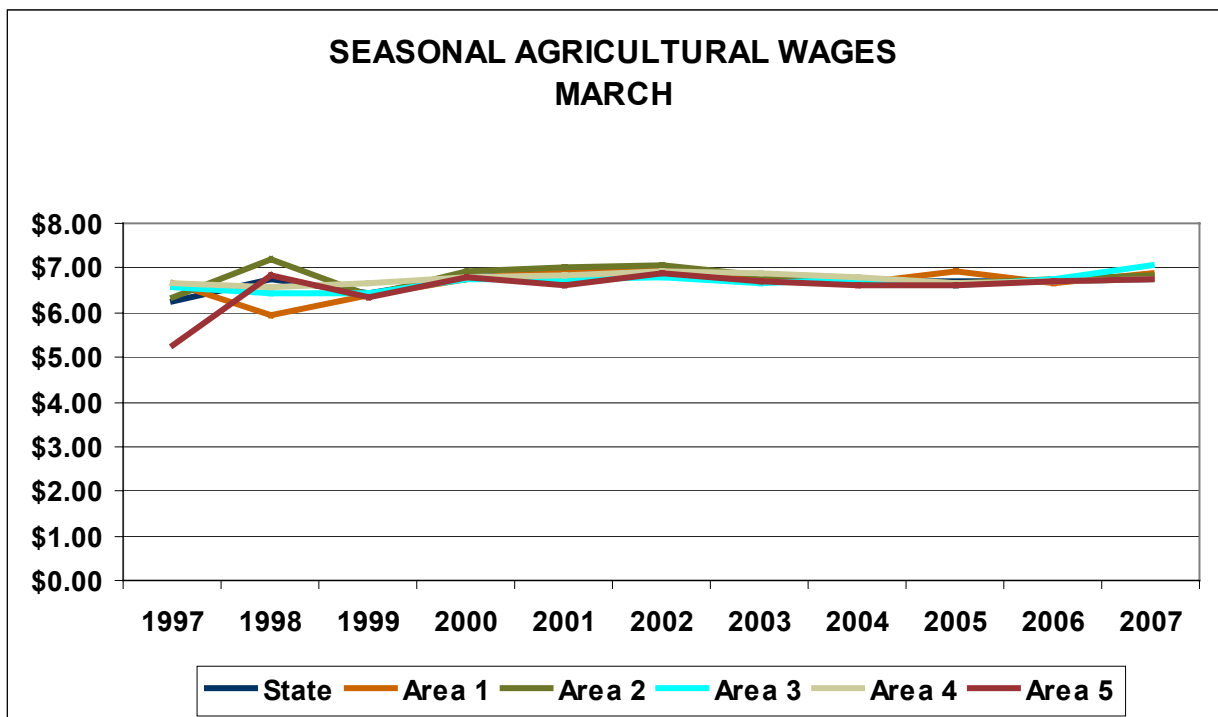


STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL WAGE TRENDS

Statewide real seasonal agricultural wages increased by 7.6% from March 1997 to March 2007. Washington State real minimum wages advanced by 22.4% during this same time period. Statewide real agricultural seasonal wages rose by 0.3% from March 2006 to March 2007. The state minimum wage increased by 3.9% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages grew by 3.3% from March 2006 to March 2007. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages grew by 1.1% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages moved ahead by 4.6% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages nudged up by 0.5% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages inched up by 0.7% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES*											
MARCH											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
State	\$6.26	\$6.73	\$6.44	\$6.81	\$6.88	\$6.95	\$6.79	\$6.72	\$6.69	\$6.71	\$6.73
Area 1	\$6.65	\$5.97	\$6.39	\$6.74	\$6.97	\$7.03	\$6.81	\$6.66	\$6.91	\$6.65	\$6.87
Area 2	\$6.35	\$7.20	\$6.40	\$6.92	\$7.02	\$7.04	\$6.85	\$6.74	\$6.65	\$6.75	\$6.83
Area 3	\$6.56	\$6.45	\$6.42	\$6.74	\$6.75	\$6.79	\$6.65	\$6.76	\$6.62	\$6.74	\$7.05
Area 4	\$6.67	\$6.56	\$6.68	\$6.79	\$6.83	\$6.93	\$6.87	\$6.78	\$6.64	\$6.70	\$6.74
Area 5	\$5.26	\$6.83	\$6.36	\$6.79	\$6.62	\$6.88	\$6.72	\$6.59	\$6.63	\$6.68	\$6.73

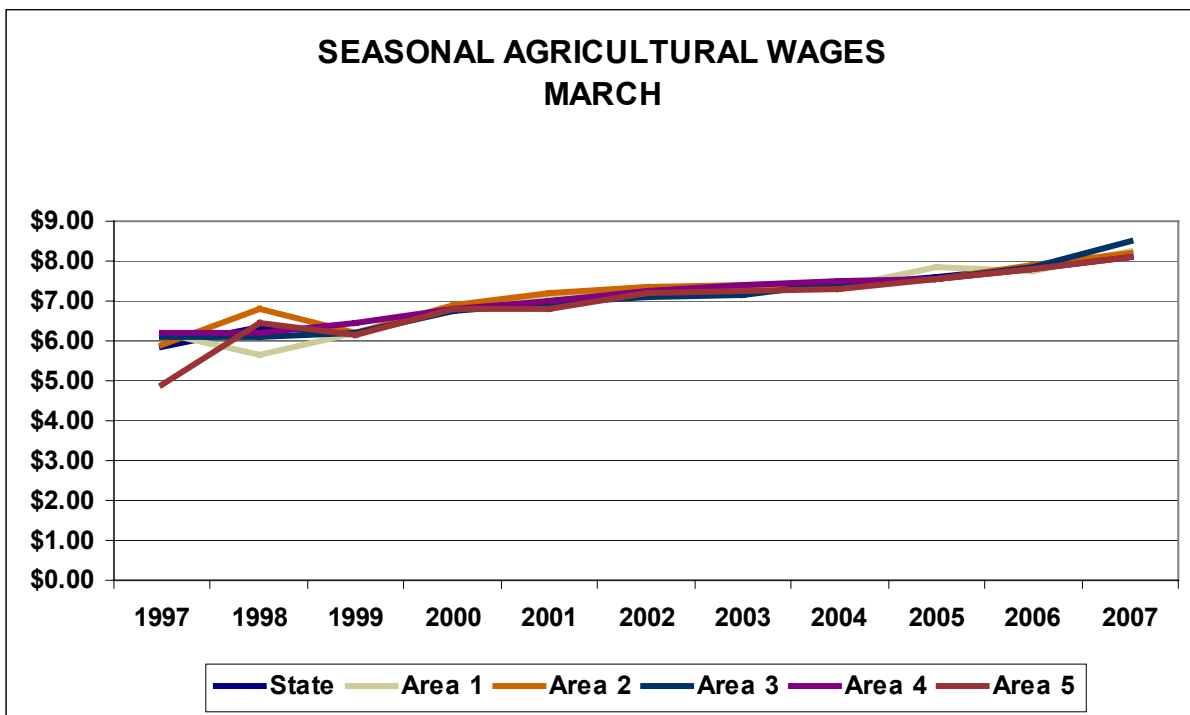
*Real 2000 Adjusted Dollars



Statewide non-adjusted seasonal agricultural wages grew by 38.9% from March 1997 to March 2007. Washington State non-adjusted minimum wages expanded by 61.8% during this same time period. Statewide non-adjusted agricultural seasonal wages grew by 3.4% from March 2006 to March 2007. The state minimum wage expanded by 3.9% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages advanced by 6.6% from March 2006 to March 2007. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages increased by 4.3% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages ramped up by 7.9% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages expanded by 3.7% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages rose by 3.8% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES**											
MARCH											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
State	\$5.83	\$6.37	\$6.22	\$6.81	\$7.07	\$7.25	\$7.31	\$7.42	\$7.61	\$7.84	\$8.10
Area 1	\$6.20	\$5.65	\$6.18	\$6.74	\$7.17	\$7.34	\$7.33	\$7.35	\$7.86	\$7.76	\$8.27
Area 2	\$5.92	\$6.82	\$6.19	\$6.92	\$7.22	\$7.35	\$7.38	\$7.44	\$7.57	\$7.88	\$8.22
Area 3	\$6.11	\$6.11	\$6.21	\$6.74	\$6.94	\$7.09	\$7.16	\$7.46	\$7.53	\$7.87	\$8.49
Area 4	\$6.22	\$6.21	\$6.46	\$6.79	\$7.02	\$7.24	\$7.40	\$7.48	\$7.56	\$7.82	\$8.11
Area 5	\$4.90	\$6.47	\$6.15	\$6.79	\$6.81	\$7.18	\$7.24	\$7.28	\$7.55	\$7.80	\$8.10

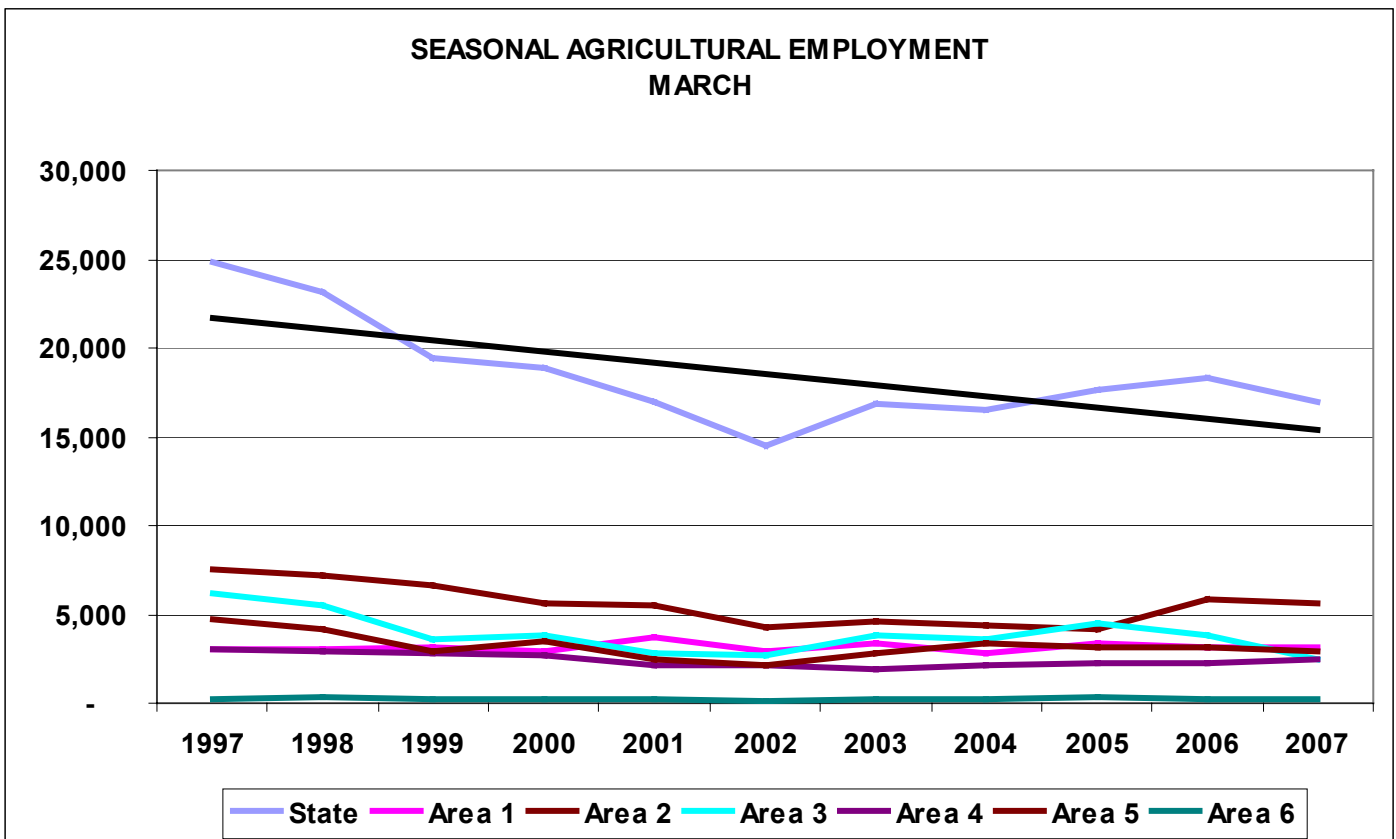
****Non-Adjusted Dollars**



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment fell by 31.6% from March 1997 to March 2007. Statewide seasonal agricultural employment also declined by 7.5% from March 2006 to March 2007. Western (Area 1) seasonal employment stepped back by 0.4% from March 2006 to March 2007. South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment softened by 3.4% during that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment decreased by 35.1% for that same time period. Columbia Basin seasonal employment expanded by 10.3% during that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment fell by 5.3% over that same time period. Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment moved ahead by 44.8% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT											
MARCH											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
State	24,829	23,184	19,384	18,824	16,928	14,453	16,833	16,503	17,687	18,345	16,977
Area 1	3,007	3,073	3,095	2,904	3,760	2,976	3,349	2,778	3,329	3,190	3,202
Area 2	7,566	7,213	6,677	5,624	5,480	4,311	4,657	4,360	4,142	5,837	5,636
Area 3	6,216	5,454	3,647	3,838	2,864	2,705	3,784	3,587	4,549	3,770	2,446
Area 4	3,077	2,953	2,800	2,702	2,164	2,141	1,943	2,178	2,222	2,223	2,451
Area 5	4,712	4,160	2,916	3,500	2,480	2,177	2,835	3,347	3,150	3,142	2,977
Area 6	251	331	249	256	180	143	265	253	295	183	265



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment decreased by 10.8% from March 2006 to March 2007. Seasonal employment increased by 18.3% statewide from February 2007 to March 2007. The crop displaying the largest employment growth from March 2006 to March 2007 was pear work (988). Apple work lost the largest amount of employment (-3,026) for that same time period. Nursery work moved ahead of all other crop activities (1,217) from February 2007 to March 2007. Cherry work shed the greatest number of jobs (-1,083) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2007 was \$8.21 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAR 07	FEB 07	MAR 06	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR' 06- MAR' 07	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR 06- MAR 07
CROP	MAR 07	FEB 07	MAR 06	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR' 06- MAR' 07	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR 06- MAR 07
Apples	5,866	6,663	8,892	(797)	(3,026)	-12.0%	-34.0%
Asparagus	17	6	0	11	17	183.3%	NA
Blueberry	119	242	93	(123)	26	-50.8%	28.0%
Bulb	129	376	994	(247)	(865)	-65.7%	-87.0%
Cherries	1,159	2,242	726	(1,083)	433	-48.3%	59.6%
Grapes	2,534	974	1,783	1,560	751	160.2%	42.1%
Hops	380	52	1,038	328	(658)	630.8%	-63.4%
Misc Vegetables	373	209	234	164	139	78.5%	59.4%
Nursery	1,496	279	1,205	1,217	291	436.2%	24.1%
Onion	268	166	789	102	(521)	61.4%	-66.0%
Other Seasonal	1,320	806	668	514	652	63.8%	97.6%
Other Tree Fruit	455	433	805	22	(350)	5.1%	-43.5%
Pears	1,387	625	399	762	988	121.9%	247.6%
Potato	873	860	715	13	158	1.5%	22.1%
Raspberry	534	368	532	166	2	45.1%	0.4%
Strawberry	0	0	75	0	(75)	NA	NA
Wheat/Grain	61	60	79	1	(18)	1.7%	-22.8%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment expanded by 0.2% from March 2006 to March 2007. Seasonal employment grew by 50.6% from February 2007 to March 2007. Nursery work grew by the greatest number of jobs (380) from March 2006 to March 2007. Bulb work lost the most employment (-865) for that same time period. Nursery work displayed the greatest over-the-month employment gain (1,295) from February 2007 to March 2007. Rhubarb work showed the largest downtick in jobs (-294) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2007 in Area 1 was \$8.27 per hour. (See pages 19-20 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN							CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				FEB 07-	MAR' 06-			FEB 07-	MAR 06-	
	MAR 07	FEB 07	MAR 06	MAR 07	MAR' 07		MAR 07	MAR 07		
Blueberry	119	242	93	(123)	26		-50.8%	28.0%		
Bulb	129	376	994	(247)	(865)		-65.7%	-87.0%		
Misc Vegetables	231	0	173	231	58		NA	33.5%		
Nursery	1,391	96	1,011	1,295	380		1349.0%	37.6%		
Other Seasonal	157	242	38	(85)	119		-35.1%	313.2%		
Potato	569	140	268	429	301		306.4%	112.3%		
Raspberry	534	575	532	(41)	2		-7.1%	0.4%		
Rhubarb	74	368	13	(294)	61		-79.9%	469.2%		
Strawberry	0	86	75	(86)	(75)		NA	NA		

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment contracted by 0.4% from March 2006 to March 2007. Seasonal employment advanced by 19.7% from February 2007 to March 2007. Pear work posted the largest gain in jobs (1,012) from March 2006 to March 2007. Apple work displayed the greatest decline in employment (-802) for that same time period. Pear work moved ahead with the largest employment gain (789) from February 2007 to March 2007. Cherry work recorded the greatest job loss (-916) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2007 in Area 2 was \$8.22 per hour. (See pages 21-22 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL							CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				FEB 07-	MAR' 06-			FEB 07-	MAR 06-	
	MAR 07	FEB 07	MAR 06	MAR 07	MAR' 07		MAR 07	MAR 07		
Apples	1,962	1,889	2,764	73	(802)		3.9%	-29.0%		
Asparagus	17	6	0	11	17		183.3%	NA		
Cherries	15	931	303	(916)	(288)		-98.4%	-95.0%		
Grapes	1,202	577	1,065	625	137		108.3%	12.9%		
Hops	325	52	483	273	(158)		525.0%	-32.7%		
Misc Vegetables	12	17	3	(5)	9		-29.4%	300.0%		
Onions	79	6	40	73	39		1216.7%	97.5%		
Other Seasonal	357	401	165	(44)	192		-11.0%	116.4%		
Other Tree Fruit	369	326	551	43	(182)		13.2%	-33.0%		
Pears	1,294	505	282	789	1,012		156.2%	358.9%		

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment declined by 39.0% from March 2006 to March 2007. Seasonal employment decreased by 12.2% from February 2007 to March 2007. Cherry work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (542) from March 2006 to March 2007. Apple work registered the largest employment loss (-1,975) for that same time period. Cherry work added the most jobs (240) from February 2007 to March 2007. Apple work displayed the greatest decline in employment (-584) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2007 in Area 3 was \$8.49 per hour. (See pages 23-24 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL							
CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAR 07	FEB 07	MAR 06	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR' 06- MAR' 07	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR 06- MAR 07
Apples	1,685	2,269	3,660	(584)	(1,975)	-25.7%	-54.0%
Cherries	672	432	130	240	542	55.6%	416.9%
Other Seasonal	0	13	12	(13)	(12)	NA	NA
Other Tree Fruit	18	0	140	18	(122)	NA	-87.1%
Pears	72	72	69	0	3	NA	4.3%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment declined by 4.3% from March 2006 to March 2007. Seasonal employment moved forward by 6.7% from February 2007 to March 2007. Cherry work registered the largest employment growth (202) from March 2006 to March 2007. Apple work lost the most jobs (-161) during that same time period. Cherry work posted the largest over-the-month gain in employment (216) from February 2007 to March 2007. Apple work experienced the greatest loss of jobs (-235) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2007 in Area 4 was \$8.11 per hour. (See pages 25-27 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN							
CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAR 07	FEB 07	MAR 06	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR' 06- MAR' 07	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR 06- MAR 07
Apples	1,300	1,535	1,461	(235)	(161)	-15.3%	-11.0%
Cherries	381	165	179	216	202	130.9%	112.8%
Mint	22	0	38	22	(16)	NA	-42.1%
Misc Vegetables	6	3	9	3	(3)	NA	-33.3%
Nursery	0	0	5	0	(5)	NA	NA
Onion	189	160	227	29	(38)	18.1%	-16.7%
Other Seasonal	238	101	190	137	48	135.6%	25.3%
Other Tree Fruit	68	29	86	39	(18)	134.5%	-20.9%
Pears	21	48	48	(27)	(27)	-56.3%	-56.3%
Potato	223	261	314	(38)	(91)	-14.6%	-29.0%
Wheat/Grain	0	0	5	0	(5)	NA	NA

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 9.4% from March 2006 to March 2007. Seasonal employment burst ahead by 31.3% from February 2007 to March 2007. Grape work led all other crop activities (614) from March 2006 to March 2007. Onion work led the decliners (-522) during that same time period. Other seasonal work was the largest over-the-month gainer (368) from February 2007 to March 2007. Cherry work shed the largest number of jobs (-623) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2007 in Area 5 was \$8.10 per hour. (See pages 28-29 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN							
CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAR 07	FEB 07	MAR 06	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR' 06- MAR' 07	FEB 07- MAR 07	MAR 06- MAR 07
Apples	919	970	1,007	(51)	(88)	-5.3%	-8.7%
Cherries	91	714	114	(623)	(23)	-87.3%	-20.2%
Grapes	1,332	397	718	935	614	235.5%	85.5%
Hops	55	0	555	0	(500)	NA	-90.1%
Misc Vegetables	50	7	36	43	14	614.3%	38.9%
Nursery	0	0	1	0	(1)	NA	NA
Onion	0	0	522	0	(522)	NA	NA
Other Seasonal	442	74	158	368	284	497.3%	179.7%
Other Tree Fruit	0	78	28	(78)	(28)	NA	NA
Potatoes	81	24	133	57	(52)	237.5%	-39.1%
Wheat/Grain	7	5	13	2	(6)	40.0%	-46.2%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

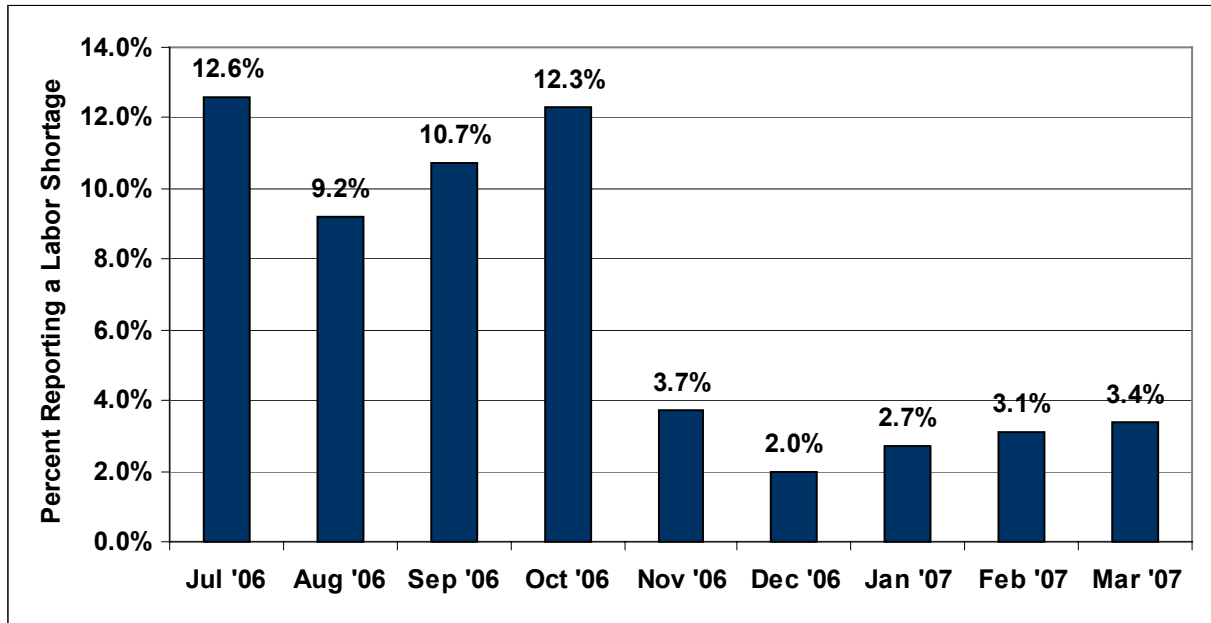
Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment did not meet the criterion of 500 seasonal employees and therefore is not published for the month of March.

LABOR SUPPLY

New survey questions were inserted into the March survey. The first question asked growers if they failed to complete some work due to lack of available seasonal labor. For March, 400 questionnaires were sent to the employers in the survey. Of these 400, 350 were returned. Of the 350 returned, 350 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	3.4%
Area 1	5.5%
Area 2	1.5%
Area 3	5.1%
Area 4	3.4%
Area 5	1.3%
Area 6	7.4%



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/occe/occe/labor-affairs/whatsnew.htm> for What's New in Agricultural Employment.

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

SEASONAL LABOR ABSTRACT MARCH 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: 3,202 (2,370 local, 0 intrastate, 137 interstate, 8 foreign, 687 unknown origin)

Nursery Harvester	969	\$ 7.93/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	560	\$ 8.15/hr
Raspberry Pruner	350	\$ 7.93/hr
Nursery Worker	199	\$ 8.63/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,636 (4,699 local, 340 intrastate, 217 interstate, 380 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,352	\$ 7.98/hr
Pear Pruner	1,276	\$ 8.00/hr
Grapes Trainer	596	\$ 8.14/hr
Grapes Pruner	592	\$ 8.33/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,446 (1,994 local, 129 intrastate, 129 interstate, 194 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,269	\$ 8.01/hr
Cherry Pruner	457	\$ 9.04/hr
Cherry Hand Thinner	206	Not Available
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	169	\$ 8.46/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,451 (2,200 local, 0 intrastate, 24 interstate, 12 foreign, 215 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	966	\$ 8.05/hr or \$ 0.65 - \$ 2.00 per tree
Cherry Pruner	261	\$ 7.96/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	182	\$ 7.99/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	173	\$ 7.96/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,977 (1,440 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 702 foreign, 835 unknown origin)

Grapes Pruner	965	\$ 7.98/hr
Apple Pruner	542	\$ 8.13/hr or \$ 0.35 - \$ 1.75 per tree
Grapes Trainer	350	\$ 8.03/hr
Chicken Eggs Worker	238	\$ 8.25/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 265 (241 local, 16 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 8 unknown origin)

Nursery Planter	94	\$ 7.99/hr
Bulbs Harvester	40	\$ 9.22/hr
Bulbs Planter	27	\$ 8.38/hr
Cherry Pruner	20	\$ 8.50/hr

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas Harvest Periods

Washington State crop harvest timetables are listed below by agricultural areas. The dates may vary considerably due to weather or other conditions.

Note that the five area groupings in the following five timeline charts do not directly match with the six agricultural area groupings that are used in the Seasonal Farm Labor Survey data used in this report.

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Okanogan and Wenatchee Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Apples												
Cherries												
Pears												
Golden Delicious												
Red Delicious												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Bellingham and Mount Vernon Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowers												
Cucumbers												
Broccoli												
Cauliflower												
Spinach												
Blueberries												
Raspberries												
Strawberries												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Tri-Cities and Walla Walla Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Apricots												
Peaches												
Pears												
Onions												
Strawberries												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Bingen, Sunnyside and Yakima Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Peaches												
Pears												
Grapes												
Hops												
Vegetables												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Moses Lake Crop Area											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Peaches												
Potatoes												

AGRICULTURAL LABOR SURVEY
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY

MARCH 2007

TABLE 1

MARCH 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	2,370	0	137	8	687	3,202
2. South Central	4,699	340	217	380	0	5,636
3. North Central	1,994	129	129	194	0	2,446
4. Columbia Basin	2,200	0	24	12	215	2,451
5. South Eastern	1,440	0	0	702	835	2,977
6. Eastern	240	16	0	0	8	265
State Totals	12,942	485	508	1,295	1,746	16,977
% State Total	76.2%	2.9%	3.0%	7.6%	10.3%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	3,202
a. Local	2,370
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	137
d. Foreign	8
e. Unknown	687
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
 The March 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,199.

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

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$8.27 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for nursery harvester, raspberry pruner, blueberry pruner, nursery sorter/grader/packer, nursery planter, nursery irrigator, raspberry weeder and apple sorter/grader/packer to \$19.93 for raspberry 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 at 74.0% local, 0.0% intrastate, 4.3% interstate, foreign 0.2% and 21.5% unknown.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	3,202
		* = piece rate
Nursery Harvester	969	\$ 7.93
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	560	\$ 8.15
Raspberry Pruner	350	\$ 7.93
Nursery Worker	199	\$ 8.63
Misc Vegetables Planter	134	\$ 9.25
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	119	\$ 8.00
Blueberry Pruner	119	\$ 7.93
General Farm Harvester	118	\$ 9.32
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	107	\$ 7.93
Rhubarb Harvester	74	\$ 8.03
Bulbs Worker	64	\$ 8.00
Nursery Planter	61	\$ 7.93
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	51	\$10.22
Raspberry Worker	34	\$ 8.30
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	34	\$ 8.14
Misc Vegetables Worker	32	\$ 9.70
Nursery Vehicle Operator	31	\$11.35
Bulbs Planter	31	\$ 7.96
Nursery Irrigator	24	\$ 7.93
Raspberry Weeder	15	\$ 7.93
Beef Cattle Worker	13	\$15.00
Dairy Worker	13	Not Available
Potato Mechanized Harvester	9	\$11.00
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	9	\$10.65
Contract Misc Crop Vehicle Operator	8	Not Available
Raspberry Manager	6	\$19.93
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 7.93
Raspberry Mechanic	5	\$12.00
Raspberry Trainer	5	\$10.17
Misc Onion Worker	5	\$ 8.20

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 8.27/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	5,636
a. Local	4,699
b. Intrastate migratory	340
c. Interstate migratory	217
d. Foreign	380
e. Unknown	0
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: 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 March 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 14,411.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, pear pruning, grapes training and grapes pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$8.22 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for nectarine pruner, peach pruner, alfalfa worker and hops planter to \$13.00 for grapes 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 83.4% local, 6.0% intrastate, 3.9% interstate, foreign 6.7% and unknown 0.0%.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	5,636
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,352	\$ 7.98
Pear Pruner	1,276	\$ 8.00
Grapes Trainer	596	\$ 8.14
Grapes Pruner	592	\$ 8.33
Apple Trainer	333	\$ 8.00
Apple Planter	222	\$ 8.00
Nectarine Pruner	203	\$ 7.93
Hops Trainer	175	\$ 8.22
Peach Pruner	129	\$ 7.93
Bulbs Irrigator	123	\$ 8.70
Hops Fertilizer Applicator	109	\$ 8.50
Bulbs Weeder	109	\$ 8.12
Misc Onion Irrigator	59	\$ 8.50
Apple Worker	55	\$ 8.50
Bulbs Worker	55	\$ 8.12
Alfalfa Worker	55	\$ 7.93
Hops Planter	41	\$ 7.93
Misc Other Fruit Pruner	37	\$10.00
Misc Onion Planter	20	\$ 8.00
Pear Tractor Operator	18	\$10.50
Cherry Pruner	15	\$ 8.00
General Farm Mechanic	15	\$ 8.78
Asparagus Worker	8	\$ 9.00
Cucumber Tractor Operator	8	\$ 9.00
Grapes Worker	7	\$ 8.70
Grapes Manager	7	\$13.00
Asparagus Irrigator	5	\$ 9.05
Asparagus Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
Misc Vegetables Mechanic	4	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 8.22/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,446
	a. Local	1,994
	b. Intrastate migratory	129
	c. Interstate migratory	129
	d. Foreign	194
	e. Unknown	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Chelan, Mattawa, Rock Island, Wenatchee, Yakima	
	b. Interstate: Arizona, California	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The March 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,978.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, cherry pruning, cherry thinning and apple warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$8.49 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for pear pruner, apple preparation, pear worker and cherry worker to \$15.00 for apple vehicle operator. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 81.5% local, 5.3% intrastate, 5.3% interstate, 7.9% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,446
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,269	\$ 8.01
Cherry Pruner	457	\$ 9.04
Cherry Hand Thinner	206	Not Available
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	169	\$ 8.46
Apple Trainer	117	Not Available
Apple Weeder	72	Not Available
Pear Pruner	54	\$ 7.93
Apple Preparation	37	\$ 7.93
Apple Worker	18	\$11.31
Pear Worker	18	\$ 7.93
Cherry Worker	9	\$ 7.93
Apricot Pruner	9	\$10.00
Misc Other Fruit Pruner	9	\$10.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	3	\$15.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 8.49/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,451
a. Local	2,200
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	24
d. Foreign	12
e. Unknown	215
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 March 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,967.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, cherry pruning, potato warehouse work and onion warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$8.11 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for bulbs harvester, apple trainer and potato planter to \$12.00 for apple tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.65 to \$2.00 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 89.7% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.0% interstate 0.5% foreign and 8.8% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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 2,451	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	966	\$ 8.05 or * \$ 0.65 - \$ 2.00 per tree
Cherry Pruner	261	\$ 7.96
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	182	\$ 7.99
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	173	\$ 7.96
Bulbs Harvester	152	\$ 7.93
Apple Weeder	124	\$ 8.03
Apple Hand Thinner	120	\$ 8.10
Cherry Weeder	120	\$ 7.97
Nectarine Weeder	51	\$ 8.00
Grapes Pruner	37	\$ 8.25
Apple Preparation	30	\$ 8.50
Apple Trainer	30	\$ 7.93
Mint Planter	22	\$ 8.48
Pear Pruner	21	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	19	\$10.00
Peach Weeder	17	\$ 8.00
Potato Mechanic	12	\$ 9.50
Apple Chemical Applicator	9	\$ 9.00
Apple Irrigator	9	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	8	\$ 8.50
Misc Onion Worker	8	\$ 8.47
Potato Loader	7	\$ 8.00
Potato Tractor Operator	7	\$10.00
Potato Planter	7	\$ 7.93
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	4	\$ 8.00
Apple Tractor Operator	4	\$12.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter	4	\$ 9.90
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	4	\$10.50
Potato Worker	4	\$ 9.00
Potato Forklift Driver	4	\$ 9.25
Apple Forklift Driver	4	\$ 9.95
Field Corn Tractor Operator	4	\$10.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
General Farm Worker	4	\$10.00
General Farm Irrigator	4	\$10.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator	3	\$12.50

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	* = piece rate
Misc Vegetables Worker	3	\$11.00
Misc Vegetables Weeder	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	3	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 8.11/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,977
a. Local	1,440
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Foreign	702
e. Unknown	835
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Warden	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The March 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 7,437.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were grapes pruning, apple pruning and grapes training.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$8.10 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for potato preparation, hops trainer, apple irrigator, grapes suckering worker, blueberry pruner, apple preparation, barley preparation and cherry weeder to \$13.59 for alfalfa worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.35 to \$1.75 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 48.4% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 23.6% foreign and 28.0% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,977
		* = piece rate
Grapes Pruner	965	\$ 7.98
Apple Pruner	542	\$ 8.13 or * \$ 0.35 - \$ 1.75 per tree
Grapes Trainer	350	\$ 8.03
Chicken Eggs Worker	238	\$ 8.25
Apple Trainer	185	\$ 7.94
Grass Seed Weeder	133	\$ 8.00
Apple Weeder	67	\$ 8.07
Cherry Pruner	66	\$ 8.40
Apple Worker	57	\$ 8.24
Potato Preparation	57	\$ 7.93
Hops Trainer	55	\$ 7.93
Misc Vegetables Worker	50	\$ 8.00
Apple Irrigator	26	\$ 7.93
Alfalfa Worker	23	\$13.59
Grapes Suckering Worker	17	\$ 7.93
Blueberry Pruner	17	\$ 7.93
Apple Planter	17	\$ 8.00
Apple Preparation	17	\$ 7.93
Potato Tractor Operator	15	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	15	\$11.00
Cherry Trainer	10	\$ 8.00
Potato Planter	9	\$ 8.50
Cherry Worker	8	\$ 8.18
Apple Tractor Operator	8	\$ 8.50
Barley Preparation	8	\$ 7.93
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	8	Not Available
Cherry Weeder	7	\$ 7.93
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$11.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 8.10/hr (weighted average)