2013 survey of Washington fruit growers

Labor Market and Performance Analysis

May 27, 2014

Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

Presentation overview

- Background on survey of Washington fruit growers.
- Results of 2013 survey:
  - Wages
  - Employment practices
- 2013 survey

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Background on survey

- Surveys all fruit growers every two years about apple thinning and cherry, pear and apple harvest.
- Covers wages and employment practices for domestic workers.
- Uses U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) methodology.
- DOL uses results to establish foreign guest-worker (H-2A) minimum wage.

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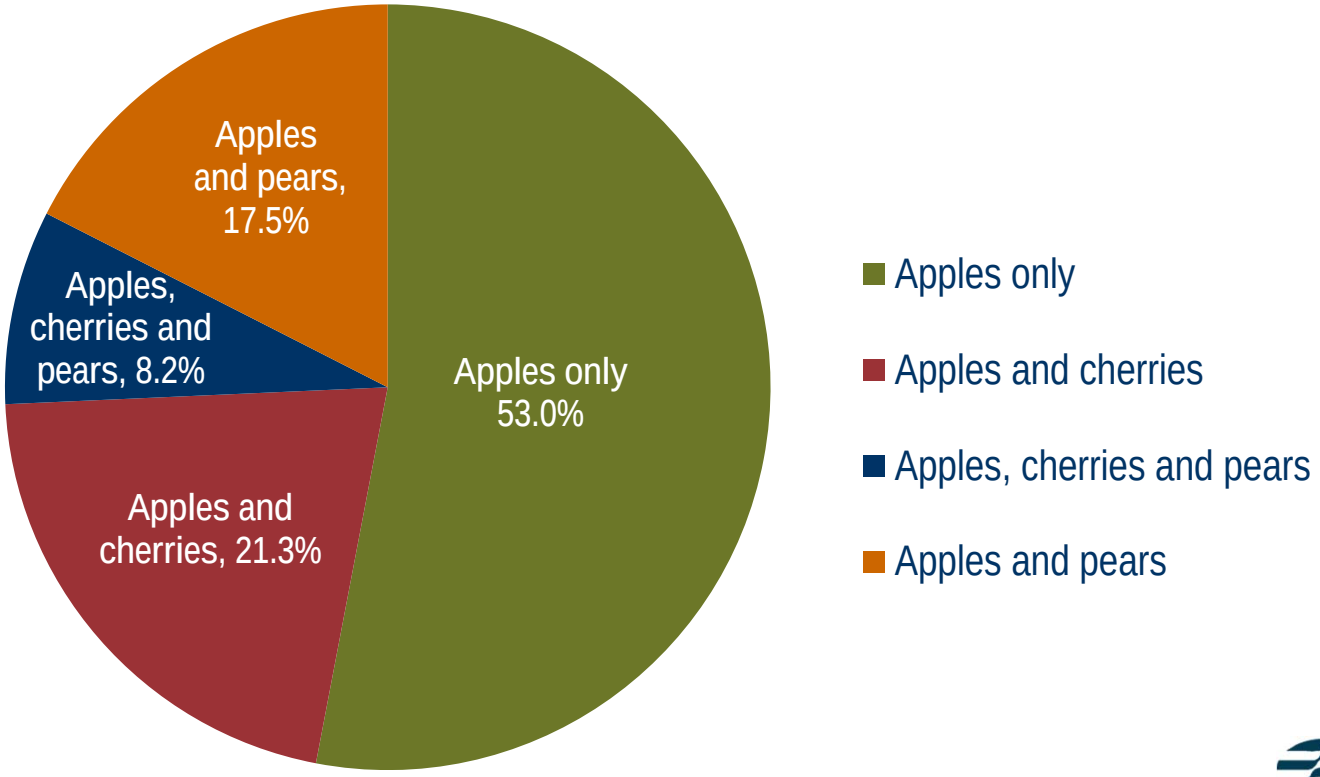
Washington fruit growers

Apple farm diversification



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Schedule of 2013 survey

- Apple thinning – July 2
- Cherry harvest – August 1
- Pear harvest – September 3
- Apple harvest – November 15
- End date – January 14, 2014

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Wage results reported to DOL

- Median wages reported to DOL for:
  - Apple thinning.
  - Red and yellow cherry harvest.
  - Two varieties for pear harvest.
  - Eight varieties for apple harvest.
- Posted by DOL on April 7, 2014.
- Applies to H-2A through 2015.

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2013 median wages

Crop	Rate	Type
Apple thinning	$10.00	Per hour
Red cherry harvest	$5.50	Per 30-lb. lug
Yellow cherry harvest	$5.50	Per 20-lb. lug
Bartlett pear harvest	$20.00	Per bin
D'Anjou pear harvest	$21.00	Per bin
Braeburn apples	$20.00	Per bin
Fuji apples	$28.00	Per bin
Gala apples	$23.50	Per bin
Golden Delicious apples	$22.00	Per bin
Granny Smith apples	$22.00	Per bin
Honey Crisp apples	$25.00	Per bin
Pink Lady apples	$25.00	Per bin
Red Delicious apples	$19.00	Per bin

Based on U.S. DOL methodology

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2007 to 2013 median wages

Crop	2007	2009	2011	2013
Apple thinning***	****	$8.75	$8.67	$10.00
Red cherry harvest*	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.50
Yellow cherry harvest**	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.50
Bartlett pear harvest	$16.00	$17.00	$18.00	$20.00
D'Anjou pear harvest	$17.00	$17.00	$19.00	$21.00
Braeburn apple harvest	$15.50	$17.00	$20.00	$20.00
Fuji apple harvest	$23.60	$22.00	$25.00	$25.00
Gala apple harvest	$20.00	$20.00	$20.00	$20.00
Golden Delicious apple harvest	$17.00	$17.00	$20.00	$22.00
Granny Smith apple harvest	****	$18.00	$20.00	$22.00
Honey Crisp apple harvest	****	****	$20.00	$25.00
Pink Lady apple harvest	$20.00	$17.00	$23.25	$25.00
Red Delicious apple harvest	$15.00	$15.00	$17.00	$19.00

*30 lb. lugs **20 lb. lugs ***Hourly ****NA

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Employment practices

The 2013 survey included questions about employment practices.

The percentages of the employment practices were calculated by the number of growers, not by the number of workers.

Grower response about apple-thinning employment practices

Minimum thinning standard

- 22.7 percent required a standard.
- 54.4 percent did not require a standard.
- 22.9 percent did not respond to this question.

References to verify prior experience

- 9.3 percent required references.
- 43.5 percent did not require references.
- 47.2 percent did not require prior experience.

Grower response about cherry-harvest employment practices

Bonus

- 7.9 percent offered a bonus.
- 43.5 percent did not offer a bonus.
- 48.6 percent did not respond to this question.

Minimum harvest standard

- 25.9 percent required a standard.
- 45.7 percent did not require a standard.
- 28.4 percent did not respond to this question.

Grower response about cherry-harvest employment practices

References to verify prior experience

- 5.2 percent required references.
- 30.1 percent did not require references.
- 63.7 percent did not require prior experience.

Grower response about pear-harvest employment practices

Bonus

- 12.4 percent offered a bonus.
- 59.5 percent did not offer a bonus.
- 28.1 percent did not respond to this question.

Minimum harvest standard

- 28.1 percent required a standard.
- 55.4 percent did not require a standard.
- 16.5 percent did not respond to this question.

Grower response about pear-harvest employment practices

References to verify prior experience

- 4.1 percent required references.
- 31.8 percent did not require references.
- 64.1 percent did not require prior experience.

Grower response about apple-harvest employment practices

Bonus

- 10.5 percent offered a bonus.
- 83.8 percent did not offer a bonus.
- 5.6 percent did not respond to this question.

Minimum harvest standard

- 26.4 percent required a standard.
- 54.1 percent did not require a standard.
- 19.5 percent did not respond to this question.

Grower response about apple-harvest employment practices

References to verify prior experience

- 4.9 percent required references.
- 27.4 percent did not require references.
- 67.7 percent did not require prior experience.

2015 survey

- The next survey of Washington fruit growers is scheduled for 2015.
- Results will be reported to DOL in early 2016.