

# FARM LABOR



Statistical Reporting Service

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## NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS DOWN - WAGES HIGHER - FEWER HOURS

During the week of July 11-17, 1982, 4.4 million people were working on farms and ranches in the United States according to the Crop Reporting Board. Hired workers represented 42 percent (1.8 million) of the total while the farm operators and other unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more accounted for the remaining 2.6 million workers. The total farm work force was down 5 percent from July 1980 when the last comparable Farm Labor Survey was conducted.

In July 1982, the number of workers hired directly by the farm operators was 1.54 million, 14 percent below July 1980. The number of self-employed and other unpaid workers on farms declined 7 percent from July 1980.

Wage rates for all hired farm workers was \$3.96 per hour, up 12 percent from July 1980. The wage rate for workers paid on an hourly basis was \$3.87, up \$.34 and \$.01 per hour since July 1980 and April 1981, respectively. The wage rates for the different categories of workers were; field \$3.80, livestock \$3.76, and piece-rate \$5.91.

With the work force declining, the self-employed farm operators worked more hours than they had in the past. During the July 11-17 week, the self-employed farm operator averaged 47.2 hours, 6.8 hours more than in July 1980. The other unpaid workers averaged 38.6 hours for the week, down 1.8 from July 1980. The hired workers on the farm averaged 35.3 hours for the week compared to 38.0 in July 1980.

## PERQUISITES AND OTHER BENEFITS

Approximately 45 percent of the hired farm workers received some form of perquisite such as meals, housing or motor vehicle in addition to the cash wages in July 1982. About 15 percent of the hired workers were furnished a house in addition to the cash wages. Data from the 1981 Farm production Expenditure Survey showed that the value of perquisites represented 15 percent of the total farm and ranch labor expenditures.

## FARM WORKERS AND WORKERS PER FARM

Most areas of the Nation experienced favorable crop development and harvesting weather during the week of July 11-17. However, wet fields in the Midwest and South Atlantic States limited the number of days that fieldwork could be performed.

(Continued)

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During the week of July 11-17, 475,000 farms and ranches reported hired workers. Of the workers hired directly by the farm operator, 39 percent were working on farms where 11 or more hired workers were employed. In comparison, farms employing one hired worker accounted for 13 percent of the direct hire work force. Data from the 1981 Farm Production Expenditure Survey showed that 1,027,000 farms in the Nation hired one or more workers sometime during the year.

#### SURVEY CHANGES

The 1982 Farm Labor Survey has many characteristics that are similar to those in the former Quarterly Farm Labor Surveys that were discontinued in May 1981. However, some conceptual changes were made to the survey that make the data more compatible with other labor statistic series. For instance, in the past the total number of family workers was obtained, which was about 2.2 percent less than the total non-salaried workers obtained in the 1982 Farm Labor Survey. The survey week remained as the week containing the 12th of the month. The major types of workers were retained (field, livestock and supervisors) but all other workers were collapsed into a single group. Individual State data are available for the 28 States that have the largest hired work force. Estimates are published for the 28 States, 6 regions and U.S.

#### SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

The estimates of agricultural labor are based on a multiple frame probability survey. Two sampling frames were utilized--a list of agricultural producers and an area frame. The list of agricultural producers used by the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) consists of employers of agricultural labor. A random sample is selected from the stratified list for the survey. Employers who were likely to have large numbers of workers were sampled more heavily than those with fewer workers.

The SRS area sampling frame has all land units in the Nation classified for sampling. A probability sample from the area frame would provide an unbiased estimate for agricultural workers on farms. However, this is a less efficient sampling frame because a large number of workers are hired by a small portion of the farm operators. Therefore, the area frame is used to estimate the incompleteness in the list. Thereby, the multiple frame sampling approach utilizes the desirable attributes of both frames.

Estimates based on a sample differ somewhat from data that would have been obtained if a complete enumeration had been taken. These differences are the result of sample variability. In addition, survey estimates are subject to non-sampling errors. These errors are minimized through enumerator training, questionnaire design and testing, and comprehensive edit procedures.

Standard errors and relative standard errors are statistical measures of the variation that occurs by chance because of sampling rather than a census of the entire population. Standard errors and relative standard errors were computed from the sample data. Indications from the survey were within the range of one standard error below to one standard error above the true value (actual estimate) in two out of three cases. The survey estimates have standard errors of 106,000 for the number of self-employed and other unpaid workers and 96,000 for the hired workers at the U.S. level. Relative standard errors are 4.0 and 5.8 percent, respectively. Relative standard errors at the regional level for hired workers ranged from 7 to 13 percent. Wage rates in the 28 States where State estimates are published had relative errors in the 5 to 10 percent range. At the regional and U.S. levels, the relative errors were in the 2 to 4 percent range for wage rates.

FARM EMPLOYMENT AND INDEXES, JULY 1982, WITH COMPARISONS, UNITED STATES 1/

NUMBER OF WORKERS

ITEM	JULY 8-14, 1979	JULY 6-12, 1980	JULY 11-17, 1982
THOUSANDS			
<u>FARM EMPLOYMENT</u>			
TOTAL	4,639.3	4,542.6	4,108.4
SELF-EMPLOYED	2/	2/	1,619.6
UNPAID	2/	2/	947.8
HIRED	1,807.4	1,791.4	1,541.0
EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED			
150 DAYS OR MORE	2/	2/	684
149 DAYS OR LESS	2/	2/	857
(1910-14 = 100)			
<u>INDEXES</u>			
TOTAL	28	28	25
HIRED	33	33	28
(1977 = 100)			
TOTAL	92	90	81
HIRED	97	96	82

FARM WAGE RATES 3/

ITEM	JULY 8-14, 1979	JULY 6-12, 1980	JULY 11-17, 1982
DOLLARS PER HOUR			
ALL HIRED FARM WORKERS	3.23	3.54	3.96
METHOD OF PAY			
HOURLY	3.25	3.53	3.87
PIECE RATE	3.75	4.18	4.81
OTHER	2/	2/	3.86
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED			
FIELD	3.05	3.38	3.80
LIVESTOCK	2.99	3.22	3.76
SUPERVISORY	5.08	5.45	5.91
OTHER	2/	2/	4.09
(1910-14 = 100)			
<u>INDEXES</u>			
ALL HIRED FARM WORKERS	2,251	2,449	2,610
(1977 = 100)			
ALL HIRED FARM WORKERS	118	128	136

1/ JULY 1981 DATA NOT AVAILABLE. 2/ NOT AVAILABLE. 3/ PERQUISITES SUCH AS ROOM AND BOARD, HOUSING, ETC., ARE PROVIDED SOME WORKERS IN ALL CATEGORIES.

HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS, JULY 11-17, 1982, UNITED STATES

EMPLOYEES PER FARM

NUMBER	:	PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS
1 WORKER	:	13
2 WORKERS	:	14
3-6 WORKERS	:	23
7-10 WORKERS	:	11
11 AND OVER WORKERS	:	39

METHOD OF PAY

PAYMENT METHOD	:	PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS
HOURLY	:	63
PIECE RATE	:	9
OTHER	:	28

PERQUISITES RECEIVED

TYPE OF PERQUISITE	:	PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS
WAGES ONLY	:	55
BONUS	:	2
ROOM AND BOARD	:	11
HOUSING	:	16
MEALS OR FOOD	:	7
OTHER	:	9

NUMBER OF FARMS AND EXPENDITURES FOR HIRED WORKERS

ITEM	:	1981 1/	:	JULY 1982
NUMBER OF FARMS HIRING WORKERS	:	1,027,000	:	475,000
	:	1,000 DOLLARS		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FARM LABOR	:	10,547,315	:	
CASH WAGES	:	8,233,662	:	
CONTRACT LABOR	:	754,124	:	
TOTAL PERQUISITES FURNISHED	:	1,559,528	:	
LIFE, HEALTH, PENSION & RETIREMENT	:	250,426	:	
SOCIAL SECURITY & COMPENSATION	:	641,488	:	
CASH VALUE - BOARD, HOUSING, ETC.	:	487,228	:	
OTHER ITEMS, MEAT, MILK, TRANSPORTATION	:	180,387	:	

1/ ANNUAL DATA FROM THE 1981 FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURE SURVEY, SRS, USDA, JULY 1982.

WORKERS ON FARMS, JULY 11-17, 1982

STATE AND REGION	TOTAL	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED		
				NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED 150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
N Y	58	32	26	33	20	13
PA	76	39	37	36	26	10
VA	66	47	19	35	10	25
NORTHEAST 1/	329	179	150	195	98	97
ARK	42	30	12	24	18	6
FLA	35	24	11	37	30	7
GA	44	33	11	70	18	52
LA	28	23	5	20	13	7
MISS	33.5	25	8.5	30	17	13
N C	93	49	44	151	28	123
SOUTHEAST 2/	460.5	321	139.5	430	142	288
ILL	93	66	27	38	12	26
IND	63	51	12	28	12	16
IOWA	144	95	49	41	11	30
KY	94	55	39	33	12	21
MICH	58	39	19	45	15	30
MINN	167	101	66	47	23	24
MO	122	73	49	37	17	20
OHIO	82	55	27	27	14	13
WIS	142	79	63	48	34	14
NORTH CENTRAL	965	614	351	344	150	194
KANS	90	57	33	20	10	10
NEBR	83	50	33	20	7	13
TEX	149	108	41	70	38	32
PLAINS 3/	483	301	182	139	64	75
ARIZ	15	1	14	13	9	4
COLO	32	18	14	13	10	3
IDAHO	46	26	20	15	10	5
INTERMOUNTAIN 4/	169	101	68	89	59	30
CALIF	77	45	32	240	133	107
HAW	3.9	2.6	1.3	13	10	3
OREG	48	32	16	49	14	35
WASH	32	24	8	42	14	28
PACIFIC	160.9	103.6	57.3	344	171	173
U.S. (49 STS):	2,567.4	1,619.6	947.8	1,541	684	857

1/ LISTED STATES PLUS CONN, DEL, MAINE, MD, MASS, N H, N J, R I, VT, AND W VA. 2/ LISTED STATES PLUS ALA, S C, AND TENN. 3/ LISTED STATES PLUS N DAK, OKLA, AND S DAK. 4/ LISTED STATES PLUS MONT, NEV, N MEX, UTAH, AND WYO.

HOURS WORKED PER WORKER, JULY 11-17, 1982  
BY STATES, REGIONS AND UNITED STATES

STATE AND REGION	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED
HOURS			
N Y	62.2	38.2	44.4
PA	61.9	45.3	38.4
VA	36.7	42.9	28.0
NORTHEAST 1/	49.5	35.8	35.9
ARK	41.7	32.0	41.7
FLA	30.1	45.5	37.6
GA	37.1	28.9	28.4
LA	38.0	37.2	37.7
MISS	34.2	46.5	35.7
N C	45.2	35.8	23.8
SOUTHEAST 2/	37.0	35.6	27.9
ILL	42.9	37.3	26.2
IND	41.9	36.0	31.1
IOWA	51.9	34.9	28.3
KY	34.0	33.9	28.7
MICH	53.7	35.8	31.5
MINN	53.5	44.4	30.4
MO	44.9	40.0	35.2
OHIO	43.6	39.2	32.8
WIS	60.0	38.4	40.2
NORTH CENTRAL	48.3	38.5	31.8
KANS	61.8	60.5	52.2
NEBR	69.5	44.3	45.7
TEX	38.9	35.4	43.0
PLAINS 3/	52.5	42.6	43.8
ARIZ	44.0	33.1	46.3
COLO	58.6	45.3	50.6
IDAHO	61.2	50.2	46.9
INTERMOUNTAIN 4/	57.7	47.6	47.1
CALIF	38.7	27.7	43.3
HAW	28.9	31.5	39.0
OREG	42.8	29.6	31.0
WASH	49.2	38.7	43.4
PACIFIC	42.2	29.9	41.4
U.S. (49 STATES)	47.2	38.6	35.3

1/ LISTED STATES PLUS CONN, DEL, MAINE, MD, MASS, N H, N J, R I, VT, AND W VA. 2/ LISTED STATES PLUS ALA, S C, AND TENN. 3/ LISTED STATES PLUS N DAK, OKLA, AND S DAK. 4/ LISTED STATES PLUS MONT, NEV, N MEX, UTAH AND WYO.

FARM WAGE RATES, JULY 11-17, 1982  
BY STATES, REGIONS AND UNITED STATES

STATE AND REGION	HIRED WORKERS							
	TYPE OF WORK				METHOD OF PAY			
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	SUPERVISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER	
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
N Y	3.56	2.98	5/	3.01	3.50	5/	2.97	
PA	3.81	3.50	5/	5/	3.90	5/	4.04	
VA	3.25	3.30	5/	5/	3.40	5/	3.45	
NORTHEAST 1/	3.55	3.30	5.68	3.22	3.72	3.56	3.25	
ARK	3.58	4.48	5.31	3.90	4.11	5/	4.10	
FLA	3.90	3.95	6.08	3.97	3.97	4.29	4.68	
GA	2.99	5/	5/	4.01	3.40	5/	3.06	
LA	3.56	4.42	5/	4.08	4.00	5/	4.31	
MISS	3.18	3.56	5/	3.77	3.31	5/	4.05	
N C	3.40	3.59	5/	5/	3.35	5/	3.71	
SOUTHEAST 2/	3.28	3.82	5.68	4.02	3.51	4.35	3.54	
ILL	3.53	4.17	5/	3.36	3.85	5/	3.51	
IND	3.82	3.96	6.08	3.86	4.01	5/	4.01	
IOWA	3.45	3.64	5/	4.15	3.61	5/	3.56	
KY	3.09	3.52	5/	5/	3.28	5/	3.16	
MICH	3.82	4.14	5/	4.70	3.70	4.30	4.21	
MINN	3.43	4.30	5/	3.79	3.63	5/	4.31	
MO	4.18	3.95	5/	4.09	4.16	5/	4.08	
OHIO	4.02	3.92	7.42	4.27	4.29	4.21	4.06	
WIS	2.94	3.49	5/	3.84	3.35	5/	3.47	
NORTH CENTRAL	3.57	3.79	5.99	3.95	3.74	4.42	3.78	
KANS	4.30	3.77	5/	3.78	4.06	5/	3.92	
NEBR	3.86	3.91	5/	3.97	3.80	5/	4.22	
TEX	3.93	3.80	5.47	3.79	3.76	5/	3.89	
PLAINS 3/	3.87	3.78	5.81	3.71	3.86	3.82	3.93	
ARIZ	4.11	3.94	5/	5/	3.89	5/	4.58	
COLO	3.22	4.02	6.82	4.60	3.94	5/	4.45	
IDAHO	3.45	3.28	5/	5/	3.83	3.05	3.32	
INTERMOUNTAIN 4/	3.14	3.73	4.91	4.22	3.57	3.24	3.59	
CALIF	4.69	4.72	6.61	5.09	4.39	6.63	5.61	
HAW	5.88	5/	9.59	7.66	6.48	5.15	7.79	
OREG	3.66	3.20	5.56	4.25	4.12	3.58	3.69	
WASH	4.34	5/	5.93	4.89	4.01	5.25	4.34	
PACIFIC	4.58	4.34	6.59	5.12	4.43	5.83	5.09	
U.S. (49 STS)	3.80	3.76	5.91	4.09	3.87	4.81	3.86	

- 1/ LISTED STATES PLUS CONN, DEL, MAINE, MD, MASS, N H, N J, R I, VT, AND W VA.  
2/ LISTED STATES PLUS ALA, S C, AND TENN.  
3/ LISTED STATES PLUS N DAK, OKLA, AND S DAK.  
4/ LISTED STATES PLUS MONT, NEV, N MEX, UTAH, AND WYO.  
5/ INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR THIS CATEGORY-DATA INCLUDED IN ALL HIRED FARM WORKERS AND IN REGION AND U S WAGE RATES.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 289,000 workers for the Nation's farms during the week of July 11-17. Vegetable and small grain harvest along with the crews for the roguing of field crops and seed crop tending accounted for the change in the member of workers supplied to the farm work force by agricultural service firms. Wage rates received by the hired workers furnished by agricultural service firms in California and Florida were \$5.06 and \$4.97 per hour, respectively.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE FIRMS: NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS, AVERAGE HOURS WORKED FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, WAGE RATE BY TYPE OF WORK, WITH COMPARISONS, FOR CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, AND UNITED STATES 1/ 2/

ITEM	JULY 1980			JULY 1982		
	CALIF	FLA	U S	CALIF	FLA	U S
	THOUSANDS					
NUMBER OF WORKERS HIRED	36	5	67	52	3.2	289
	HOURS					
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED HIRED WORKERS	38.1	40.4	3/	39.0	39.2	3/
	DOLLARS PER HOUR					
WAGE RATES HIRED	4.67	4.61	3/	5.06	4.97	3/
METHOD OF PAY						
HOURLY	3.73	4.05	3/	4.43	4.44	3/
PIECE RATE	5.89	5.52	3/	6.50	5.64	3/
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED						
FIELD	4.45	4.26	3/	4.64	4.71	3/
SUPERVISORY	5.97	6.47	3/	6.72	7.50	3/

1/ DATA IN THIS TABLE ARE FOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICES PERFORMED ON THE FARM BY CUSTOM SERVICE UNITS SUCH AS CREW LEADERS OR CUSTOM CREWS. THESE STATISTICS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE OTHER TABLES WITH FARM LABOR DATA. 2/ VALUE OF ANY PERQUISITES PROVIDED ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WAGE RATE. 3/ NOT AVAILABLE.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

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